

**REMARKS**

Claims 24-42 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-23 are canceled and are replaced by new claims 24-42. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the present specification and in the claims as originally filed. No new matter is added.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the suggested claim amendments contained in September 1 and 15, 2004, facsimiles forwarded to Applicant's undersigned representative. New claims 24-42 correspond with the proposed claims from the September 15, 2004, facsimile, revised to change the numbering and to make changes to former claims 14 and 16, new claims 34 and 36, respectively, as discussed during a September 16, 2004, telephone conference between the Examiner and Applicant's undersigned representative.

Applicant believes that the claims are in condition for allowance with the above amendments to the claims. Applicant thus respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is authorized to charge payment for any additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper to Counsel's Deposit Account 01-2300, referring to client-matter number 108904-00002. Thus,

please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, making reference to Attorney Docket No. 108904-00002.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert K. Carpenter  
Registration No. 34,794

Customer No. 004372  
ARENT FOX PLLC  
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.,  
Suite 400  
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339  
Tel: (202) 857-6000  
Fax: (202) 638-4810

RKC/tdd

TECH/243205.1